

Could Writing be in Your Future?

By Jan Kolb



Jan Kolb and Bill, her husband, have spent their lives in full-time ministry.

Jan has traveled the world, visiting missions and taking Bibles into places like Russia and China. Jan writes weekly articles on marriage and family relationships for local newspapers. The Kolbs have three married children and seven grandchildren.

You may email her at billjankolb2@aol.com

*Scripture references are taken from the New King James version.

The pulpit is not the only platform for ministry. Many people love to read Christian articles, devotionals, novels – materials of all kinds. In fact, those in the pulpit are actively searching for good material they can study and bring to their congregations.

Your writing could be a positive influence for people in today's troubled world. You may have felt God nudging you to write for years.

May I ask, "What doth hinder thee?"

- **Fear of rejection?** A writers' fear of rejection will bring them to their knees. Rejection will come. Expect it, and press on. Country singer Randy Travis was turned down by every recording company in Nashville. David Wilkerson's book, *The Cross and the Switchblade*, was rejected by 11 publishers. Both men pressed on – and you know where they are today.
- **Procrastination?** It does take discipline to sit by the hour in front of your computer when so much of life demands your attention. Start by setting aside one or two hours a day. There is a time that will work for you. You just have to find it.
- **What will others think?** Be careful to whom you show your work. Everyone is an "expert." Take pride in your work, but seek out true mentors. Your book, or your article, becomes your baby, and you love it. That's good, but you want your "baby" to grow up and be the best it can be.
- **How do I get started?** Just write! You've had good times and hard times. The Body of Christ needs to know what you have been through and how you got through it. Turn your situations into testimonies. If you can talk, you can write.

Take a class. Local community colleges offer writing classes for a small fee. Creative writing, an English refresher course, or a support group can be stimulating. Invite God into the picture. He is for you, not against you. If He has put this desire within you and has gifted you even in a small way, then remember, He will

"perfect that which concerns you." He will bring you before the right people. "A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men" (Proverbs 18:16).

Perhaps you are questioning if this "feeling" is from God, or is it just you? Of course, the enemy will be right there to remind you of all the reasons you cannot become a writer. He will tell you that you are not qualified. Perhaps he will remind you that you don't have a formal education. He will ask you who would want to publish your material, and who would read it. Satan has many motives. He strives to stifle the God-given gift of communication within you. He desires to rob the Body of Christ of what you have to offer. He plays on your doubts and insecurities. He is the master of procrastination.

I struggled with those same feelings. Many years ago, in the wee hours of the morning, God gave me Psalm 138:8: "The LORD will perfect that which concerns me." My heart leapt, for I recognized this was a direct word from Him, and I began to write and to prepare myself.

About twenty years ago, while attending a writing class at Biola University in Southern California, the instructor asked two questions:

(1) Do you have anything to say?

(2) Does anyone need to hear it?

If you can answer yes to those questions, then you should start immediately. Act on what you know in your heart God would have you do. Write about your life experiences. Believe me, the longer you live, the more you have to write about!

You can read all the books there are on swimming, but you do not learn to swim until you get in the water. So dive in, and start splashing around. Soon you will be swimming like a champion. Come to think of it, you can probably walk on water.

